

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant respectfully requests amendment of Claim 29 as set forth herein. The proposed Claim 29 corresponds in substance to Claim 29 as originally allowed in the Office Action mailed April 13, 2004 with the exception of the expression “according to” in the preamble and the word “the” before “other carbon atom”. In evaluating the scope of the invention, it is respectfully submitted that the C₄-C₂₄ ketol fatty acid recited in Claim 29 must include compound (I), which is α -ketol, and compound (IV), which is γ -ketol, as described on page 7 of the Specification herein and as shown below. The proposed change is believed to more accurately describe the C₄-C₂₄ ketol fatty acid used in the method of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that since the proposed Claim 29 differs very little from the Claim 29 as originally allowed, that this would not require a further search or raise new issues concerning allowability of the claim. Instead, the proposed change would simply render more definite Claim 29, and present this claim using language closer to that as originally allowed in the Office Action mailed April 13, 2004.

Since this amendment under Rule 1.312 would not raise new issues or require a further search, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the proposed amendment of Claim 29.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend', written over the printed name.

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